

Statement for Management

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

July 1991



Definition

The statement for management (SFM) provides an up-to-date inventory of the park's condition and an analysis of its problems. It does not involve any prescriptive decisions on future management and use of the park, but it provides a format for evaluating conditions and identifying major issues and information voids.

Recommended by: /s/ Gary Candelaria
Superintendent, Fort Laramie
National Historic Site

May 29, 1991
Date

Approved by: Lorraine Meritzmeyer
Regional Director,
Rocky Mountain Region

7-31-91
Date

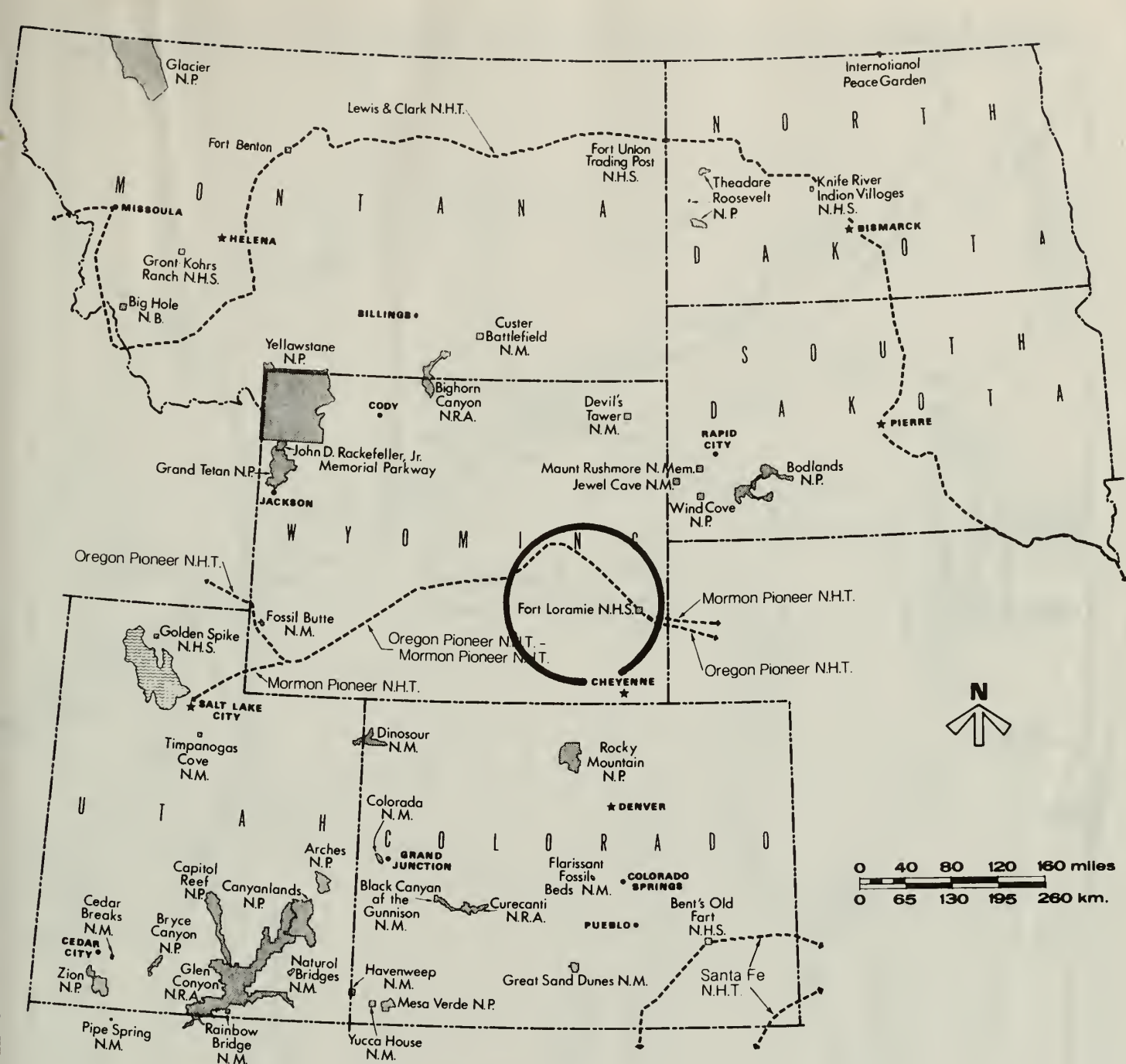
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Legend

- Locations of Major Cities
- ★ Locations of State Capitals



State Boundary Lines



National Park Service Areas

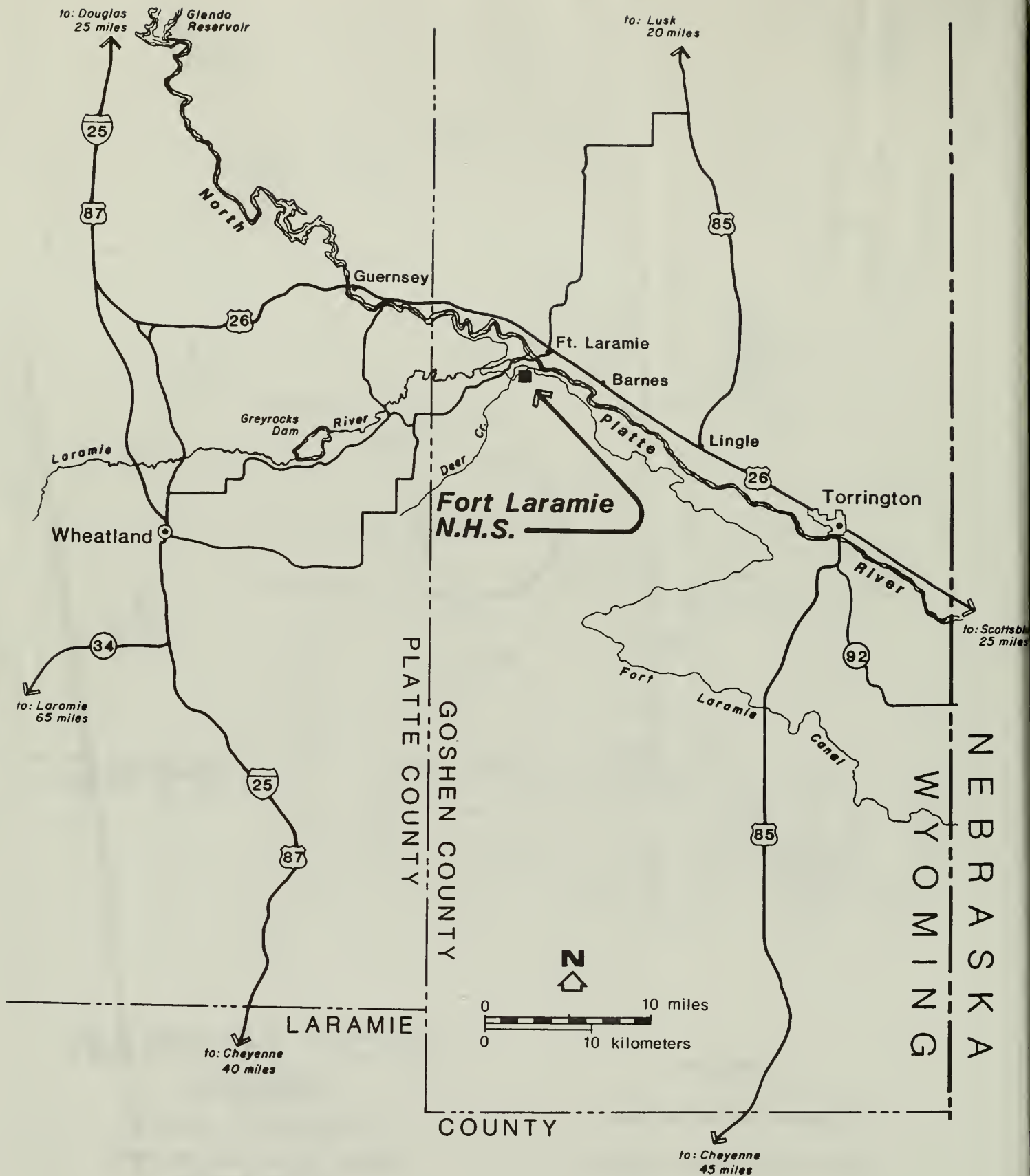


National Park Service
Historical Trails

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

National Park Service

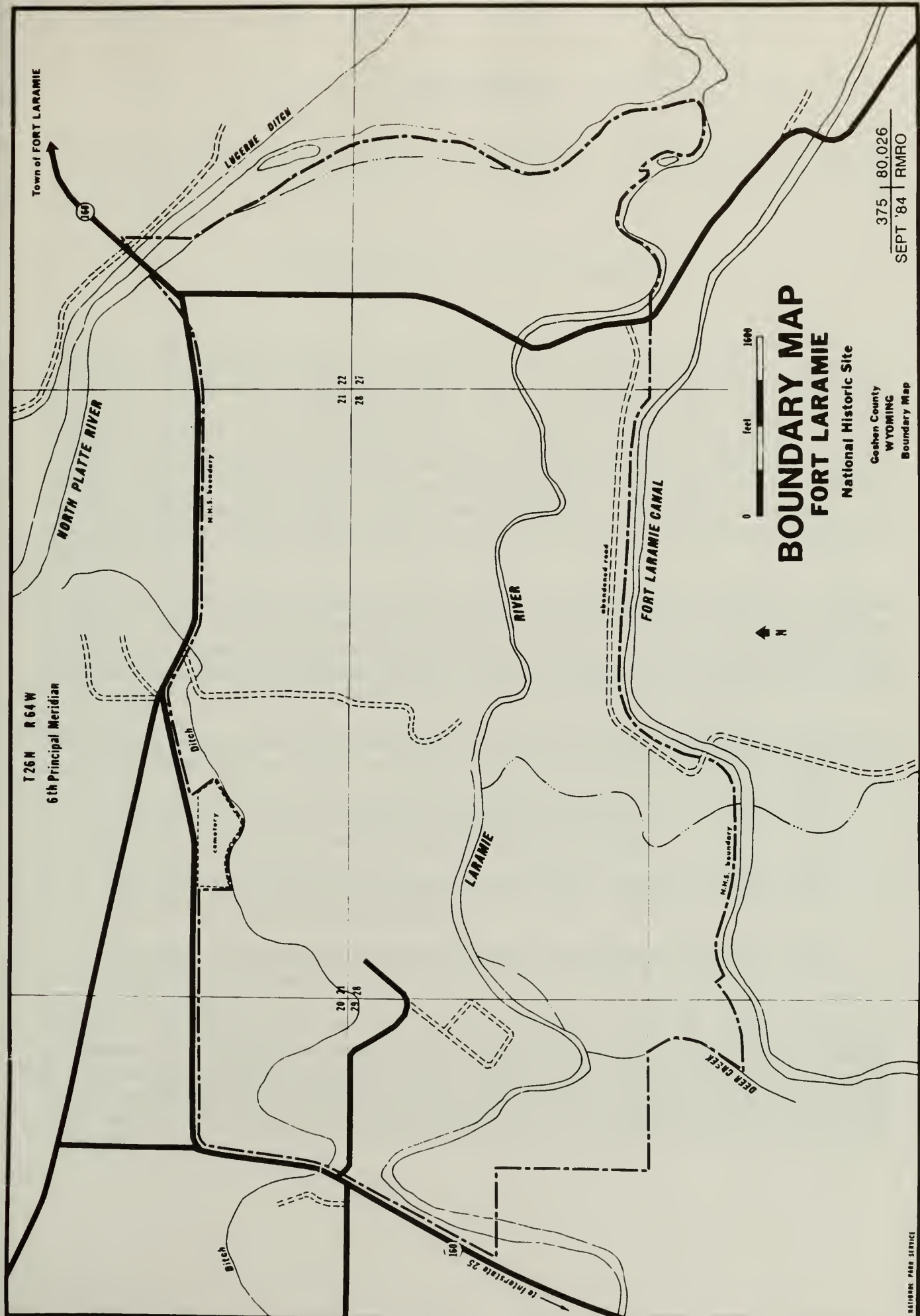
United States Department
of the Interior



Vicinity Map

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service



Town of FORT LARAMIE

T26N R64W
6th Principal Meridian

NORTH PLATTE RIVER

N.M.S. boundary

ditch

cemetery

ditch

21 22
28 27

20 21
23 24

to Interstate 25

LARAMIE RIVER

abandoned road

FORT LARAMIE CANAL

N.M.S. boundary

DEER CREEK

0 1600 feet

N

BOUNDARY MAP FORT LARAMIE

National Historic Site

Goshute County
WYOMING

Boundary Map

375 | 80.026
SEPT '84 | RMFO

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LOCATION

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is on the Laramie River near its confluence with the North Platte River in southeastern Wyoming, Goshen County, Congressional District designation AL.

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is a key site representative of American westward expansion and Manifest Destiny (1803-1890). The site played major roles in every facet of history in the area of the northern plains. The fort was a site of major fur trading posts from 1834 to 1849. From 1849 through 1890, Fort Laramie was a key military fort on the western frontier and played a vital role in the westward overland migrations to Utah, Oregon, and California, with over 350,000 pioneer emigrants passing through. A number of major High Plains Indian campaigns were launched or supported by troops from Fort Laramie during the Indian Wars. The fort was significant in the settling of the west, and two very important Indian peace treaties, the Treaty of 1851 and the Treaty of 1868, were signed there.

Historic trails and routes that passed through Fort Laramie include the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, the Mormon Trail, the Pony Express route, the transcontinental telegraph line, and the Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Route. Indians, fur trappers, traders, soldiers, emigrants, and settlers all passed this way. Sights, remnants, and reminders of historic times, trails, and peoples still exist at Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

Fort Laramie National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation No. 2292 on July 16, 1938 (53 Stat. 2461). Purposes stated in this initial legislation included:

"Whereas, . . . for the purpose of improving, preserving, and conducting such lands and structures as a public historical site; and

Whereas, the lands and structures are of great historic interest and constitute a historical landmark; and

Whereas, it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands and structures . . ."

A later Act of Congress (74 Stat. 83), Public Law 86-444, April 29, 1960, revised the boundaries and changed the name to Fort Laramie National Historic Site. A more recent Act of Congress (92 Stat. 3477), P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978, was an amendment to the aforementioned Act of Congress dated April 29, 1960. This November 10, 1978, Act again revised the boundary of the National Historic Site. (Copies of each act are in the Appendix.)

INFLUENCES: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The three acts that established and enlarged Fort Laramie National Historic Site all address preservation and interpretation of the historic resources and set out broad requirements for management of the area.

Fort Laramie is a historical area operated under the Management Policies of the National Park Service. Section 106 Compliance of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (amended in 1981) requires that any action that has an effect on a National Register property must be presented to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation before proceeding with the action. The Advisory Council has interpreted this to mean any effect--good or bad. An exception was made for the day-to-day maintenance of the historic buildings through a blanket approval that was authorized by the Advisory Council in March of 1980. The 106 procedure includes early consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Development decisions and actions must also be in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Antiquities Act of 1906; the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916; the Historic Sites Act of 1935; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968; and Executive Order 11593, dated May 13, 1971.

Some private lands acquired when the historic site was enlarged were subject to existing rights-of-way for pipelines, county roads, and a long-defunct railroad proposal. These were cited as being administratively acceptable at the time of purchase and show no signs of becoming problems.

The rights-of-way and special use permits must be considered and respected in any proposed development or action. They do not create any foreseeable management problems, except that vehicular access to pipeline above-ground controls leaves scars across an open field for a distance of about 100 feet. The pipeline accesses are sometimes used by others to get to the North Platte River, a use which is not authorized but hard to control. There are above-ground pipeline markers and valves that intrude visually; there is no chance of changing this in the foreseeable future.

The Wyrulec Company (REA) has a special use permit for a power line that serves the government facilities. The Belle Fourche Pipeline Company has a special use permit for a crude oil pipeline which crosses National Park Service land on the northeast corner of the historic site.

In 1977, a special use permit was issued to the United Telephone Company of the West for the purpose of burying the telephone line paralleling CR95 from its intersection with SR160 near the Iron Bridge to where CR95 leaves the historic site at its southeast boundary.

A second special use permit was issued to the United Telephone Company of the West for burying a telephone line from its main trunk near the Laramie River Bridge to the Geological Survey gauging station on the Laramie River, 800 feet upstream of the bridge.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement, the Geological Survey reinstalled its gauging station on the Laramie River. This station had been washed out by the 1973 flood.

The Fort Laramie Ditch Company irrigation ditch passes through Fort Laramie ground, and the fort is a company member. The fort has water rights in the company covering 302 acres. The company was established in 1891, and the system was in operation by 1894. The irrigation water is carried through the fort in a 30-inch diameter underground pipe. There are some open ditch laterals off this 30-inch pipe, and they are used each summer by the fort for grounds irrigation. An additional water right acquired with purchase of inholdings and covering 25.5 acres is under the Goshen Irrigation District; this water is delivered through an underground pipe. The open ditches are historic (over 50 years old) but were not present during the army period. Furthermore, in the 1850s the army brought in Mexican laborers to raise gardens. The first irrigation in Wyoming was done by the Mexicans in this vicinity. Additional research is needed to determine if irrigated farming took place on the military reservation.

Several county roads lace park lands. All but one (CR33) are still in use. Maintenance of county roads remains a county responsibility, but the park assists when and where possible under formal and informal agreements. One bridge, on CR95 inside the park boundary, spanning the Laramie River is maintained by the county under a cooperative maintenance agreement.

RESOURCES

Fort Laramie National Historic Site comprises 832.85 acres. The fort is below the surrounding high plains on the flood plains of the North Platte and Laramie rivers. The bluffs, approximately 1/2-mile to the north and south of the post from the rim of the river valley, provide a low, clean horizon for much of the view from the post grounds. Grasslands surround the entire area and dominate the scenery. Approximately 40 miles to the west of the fort lies the Laramie Range dominated by Laramie Peak, which rises to an elevation of 10,274 feet and is prominently visible from the post.

There are 36 significant physical remains at Fort Laramie that provide the context for understanding the people and events associated with the park. Action affecting these resources must be compatible with the park's cultural resource management plan and the various compliance procedures.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has several visible foundations, including the Footbridge (HS-35), the Outbuildings (HS-33 and 34) located behind the 1858 Officer's House (HS-30), the Icehouse (HS-32), the Married Enlisted Men's Quarters (HS-29), the Sutler's Residence (HS-28), the Three Company Barracks (HS-24), and the Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks (HS-25).

Eleven standing ruins remain at Fort Laramie: the Officer's Quarters Ruins (HS-11); the Hospital (HS-13); the Administration Building (HS-17); the Officers' Quarters D, C, and B (HS-18, 19, and 20); the Married Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters (HS-21); Powerhouse/Sawmill (HS-22); the New Bakery (HS-23); the General Sink (HS-26); and the 1850 Guardhouse (HS-27).

There are 13 historic buildings standing at Fort Laramie: Old Bedlam (HS-1); Sutler's Store (HS-2); Historic Privy (HS-3); Officers' Quarters F, E, and A (HS-4, 6, and 7); Cavalry Barracks (HS-5); Old Guardhouse (HS-8); Commissary Storehouse (HS-9); Old 1876 Bakery (HS-10); the Chicken House (HS-12); the Magazine (HS-14); and the new Guardhouse (HS-15).

Three historic structures have been identified: the Army Iron Bridge (HS-16), the Bird Bath (HS-31), and Earthworks Trench (HS-37) behind the hospital ruins.

Present visual intrusions are few, when viewed from the grounds. This creates the element of historic association that the visitor feels while at Fort Laramie. Many visitors remark that the setting of Fort Laramie gives them a feeling the soldiers and emigrants might have had in those times long past. Therefore, it should be remembered that the historic scene is an important historical component at Fort Laramie and should be preserved to enhance the historical fabric of the fort.

Management of the historic scene should continue to maintain the existing view containing few nonhistoric intrusions. Future development plans must consider and avoid to all practicable extent any sensory impacts upon the unique, open, undeveloped horizons presently enjoyed by park visitors. Existing low-key intrusions, such as maintenance buildings, vehicle parking, and administrative functions should be relocated to restore, improve, and protect the historic scene.

The wildlife that take refuge at the fort should be considered a valuable resource--deer, beaver, rabbit, and other species of animals. They are a part of the historic scene.

The museum collection contains over 40,000 objects, including antique furnishings, museum exhibit artifacts, and extensive archeological study collections. This is a significant resource that figures prominently in the park's plans and objectives.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is flanked on the east and north by rivers. To the east, the Laramie River has flood potential, which, along with high water tables, must be considered in any development planning. The highest flood on record occurred in 1983; the second highest in the spring of 1973. The Greyrocks Reservoir, upstream on the Laramie about 15 miles from the park, although not a flood control impoundment, may serve to even out flood levels along the lower Laramie River. However, as the 1983 record flood occurred after the Greyrocks Dam was in place, this control cannot be counted on. The 100-year flood level was estimated in 1962, to be at elevation 4,248 feet. A 500-year flood level has yet to be determined.

At the northern end of the park, the North Platte River has limited flood potential that may impact buried archeological resources (Fort William site). The historic Fort Laramie Iron Army Bridge (0-16) crosses the North Platte and might be vulnerable to a catastrophic flood. Several dams upstream are being examined by the Army Corps of Engineers as to their potential for failure under flood conditions. High water tables and historic flooding may have contributed to the relocation of historic fur trade activities from this area to the parade ground area of the park (Fort John site).

Most of the park's development, historic structures, and ruins are located on the first stream terrace north of the Laramie River, 10 to 16 feet above the historic floodplain. Only the Post Hospital (HS-13), the Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters ruins (HS-21), and the pre-1867 Cemetery are on the second stream terrace, which rises sharply from the first terrace to a height of 20 to 25 feet above the old floodplain.

The Commissary Storehouse (HS-9), currently the park administrative headquarters and visitor center, the Old 1876 Bakery (HS-10), the New Bakery ruins (HS-23), and the 1876 Cavalry Barracks (HS-5) are on the upper margin of the old floodplain and have not been affected by floods. Most of the other historic buildings and ruins, including Old Bedlam (HS-1), and the officers' quarters lie above the general flooding level.

On the south side of the Laramie River, the sites of several army buildings, laundress activities, and two trading posts lie on the first stream terrace, about 10 feet above the old floodplain. In the summers of 1983 and 1984, many artifacts were uncovered along the Laramie River by erosion from high floodwaters.

The archeological resources at Fort Laramie, (architectural remains), are on the List of Classified Structures. There are 19 structures listed having some form of above-ground architectural remnants. The Icehouse and the Earthworks Trench, both listed in the List of Classified Structures, are indentations and swells in the ground, not architectural remains. Hundreds of historic structure subsurface remains exist on or around Fort Laramie National Historic Site--corrals, stables, kitchens and mess rooms, quartermaster's shops, laundries, laundresses' quarters, outbuildings, and other types of subterranean remains. The historical base map shows where these structures are positioned according to evidence obtained from historic maps and early drawings of the fort. A comprehensive archeological study is needed to determine more precisely the location and the importance of the subterranean remains for a possible expanded interpretive story of Fort Laramie.

The North Platte and Laramie rivers provide residents and visitors with recreational fishing opportunities. Such activities are permitted and regulated according to assimilated state fishing regulations, and access across park lands for fishing purposes is permitted.

In 1986 through a cooperative agreement with the Bureau of Land Management, two sites adjacent to Fort Laramie with excellent sets of Oregon Trail ruts, were added to the park. Ownership remains with Bureau of Land Management but development and management are shared between both agencies. Approximately 200 acres in these two sites are covered by this agreement.

LAND USES AND TRENDS

Fort Laramie is in southeast Wyoming 23 miles west of Torrington, Wyoming, the seat of Goshen County. Agriculture, including dryland and irrigated farming and cattle ranching, is the largest industry in the county. The population density in the county is about 4.5 persons per square mile. The farms and ranches are large, more often measured in sections than in acres. As a result, the land surrounding Fort Laramie retains much the same appearance as was witnessed by the early emigrants passing through and the personnel stationed there.

At an elevation of 4,240 feet, the fort is in the northern plains climatic region, where annual temperatures can range from winter lows of -20 degrees to summer highs of 90 degrees or higher. Although design criteria need to consider these extremes, the average winter seldom has long periods of extreme cold because of the warming effects of chinook winds and predominantly clear days. Summers are short, with nighttime temperature ranges of 30 to 50 degrees. The wind seems to blow constantly from November to April, and often during the summer months as well. Extremes in temperature are hard on the museum collections displayed in the furnished structures; this variation contributes to deterioration of certain properties.

Within a 150-mile radius of Fort Laramie, there are approximately 135,000 people. This includes Wyoming's two largest cities--Casper and Cheyenne, each about 45,000--and numerous small towns and villages. It also includes Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska, with a twin-city population of about 20,000 and numerous small towns and villages in the Nebraska panhandle. Twenty percent of the fort's visitation originates in these centers. Special activities, events, and displays are attractive to residents in this area and serve to bring them to the fort again and again.

Within a 150-mile radius are a number of historical and recreational parks and sites:

- Scotts Bluff National Monument, Nebraska
- Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Nebraska
- Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Nebraska
- Fort Robinson State Park, Nebraska
- Oregon Trail Ruts Historic Site, Wyoming
- Register Cliff State Historic Site, Wyoming
- Guernsey Reservoir State Park, Wyoming
- Glendo Lake Reservoir State Park, Wyoming
- Fort Fetterman State Park, Wyoming
- Old Fort Casper, Wyoming
- Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming

Public transportation to the site is virtually nonexistent. Scottsbluff, Nebraska (55 miles away), is served by Commuter Air companies. The Burlington Northern and Union Pacific railroads serve the region but without passenger service. There are no known plans to restore passenger service on either line. Therefore, there are no demands or linkage to

public transportation depots or centers.

The North Platte and Laramie rivers are sources for irrigation water. The large Fort Laramie Canal, which carries water from the North Platte to Nebraska, parallels about 2-1/2 miles of the historic site's southern boundary. Seepage from this canal during the irrigation period often results in small areas of standing water on lower park lands. These wet conditions cause some unnatural pockets of vegetation and create adverse construction conditions that will have to be acknowledged prior to any nearby development.

The National Park Service has completed studies of the Oregon Pioneer Trail, Mormon Pioneer Trail, and Pony Express Trail for purposes of the National Historic and Scenic Trail System Act. Segments of these trails in the Fort Laramie vicinity have been proposed as having high potential for interpretation and development. As the plans are implemented, visitation will increase and greater involvement will be required in coordinated planning and interpretation of the Oregon Pioneer Trail, the Mormon Pioneer Trail and the Pony Express Trail sites.

There is one private inholding within the park. Jack Gregg of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, owns 1.33 acres of land under County Road 95. The narrow strip of land has little or no development potential, and would only be accessible in the event of abandonment of the county road for highway purposes. The inholding should be acquired to eliminate any future problems, but the matter is not of a high priority.

Preexisting rights-of-way and mineral rights pose some potential for adverse parkland use. This is not deemed a serious threat but will be monitored in the future.

Similarly, lands adjacent to the park and within the major viewing area are used primarily for grazing and as a result maintain a historic appearance. If changes are proposed, some action may be necessary to forestall or mitigate adverse developments.

VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

Annual visitation from 1980 to 1990 at Fort Laramie NHS ranged from a high of 121,577 in 1981, to a low of 65,667 in 1989. The average annual visitation for the 11-year period was 96,083. The summer months, June through August, account for the majority of park visitors. About 68 percent of the year's visitors enter the park during those months. December and January see the fewest visitors.

Daily/Weekly Use Patterns

A 1983 visitor study provided the following use pattern information. Visitors consist of 32 percent nuclear families, 13 percent extended family groups, 11 percent peer groups, 14 percent organized tours, and 5 percent people traveling alone. Peer groups (school tours) and organized tours are more evident at the fort in the spring and fall.

Origin of Visitors and Length of Stay

Sixty percent of the park visitors are United States citizens coming from outside the regional area of Fort Laramie. The highest number, 10 percent, was from California; 19 percent were "local," living in the immediate area; 20 percent were regional residents, people living within a 2-3 hour drive; and 8 percent were from foreign countries. The average length of stay at Fort Laramie is about 1 hour and 50 minutes.

Principal Activities

Fort Laramie is a day-use area open 7 a.m. to dusk during June, July, and August and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the remainder of the year. The park visitor center is open year-round with the exception of Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day. An information desk, a cooperating association sales outlet, and the park museum, which houses a variety of exhibits relating to the frontier military and more specifically, Fort Laramie are also open year-round.

In 1987 a fee program was instituted requiring a \$1 per person charge. Collection is on the honor system 9/15 - 4/30 and from an entrance station 5/1 - 9/14.

In addition to the museum there are 11 restored and refurnished historic structures with a total of 52 refurnished rooms containing over 8,000 artifacts. A self-guiding tour takes visitors through these structures and provides interpretive material regarding the buildings and their uses.

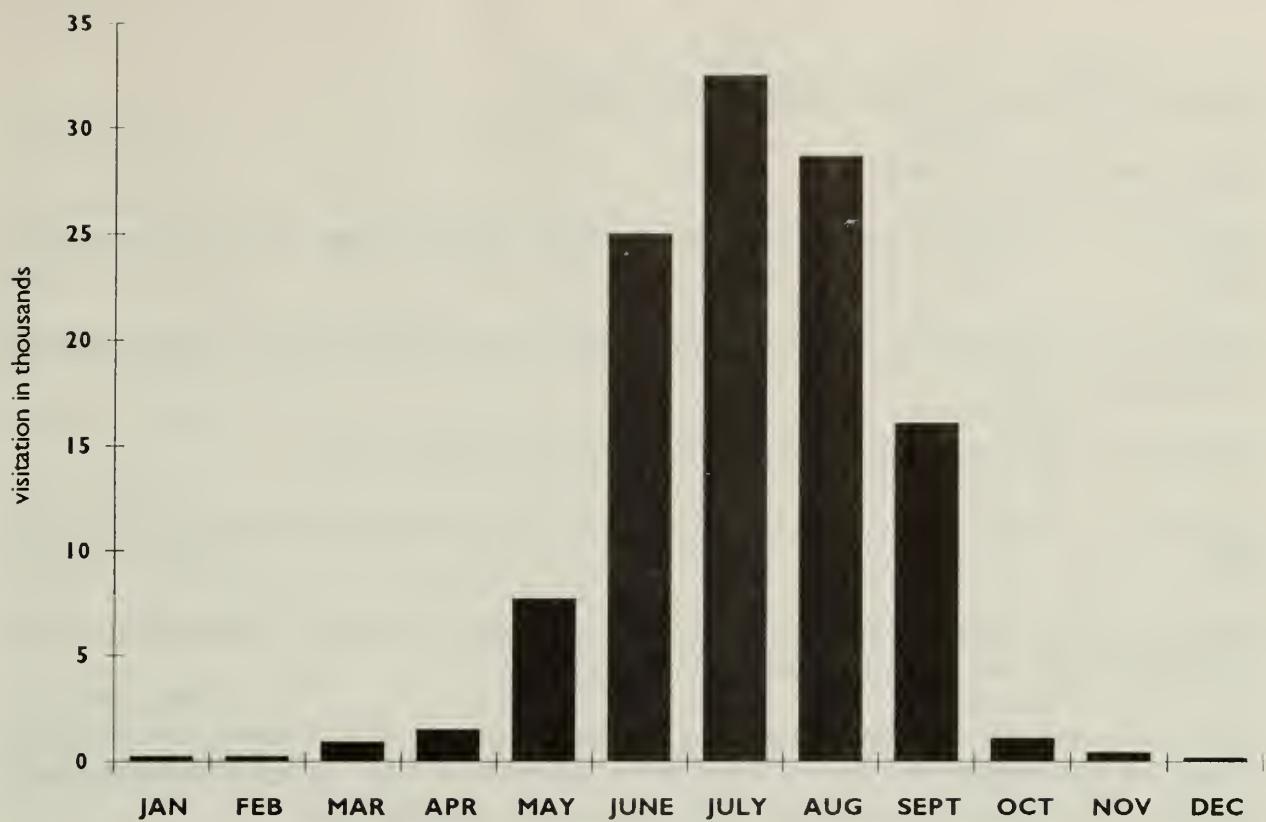
Fort Laramie has a total of 36 wayside exhibits, and these panels are located throughout the high-use areas.

An 18-minute video orientation program is available throughout the year and can be seen in the Visitor Center. This program provides a basic history of the fort and should be viewed when the visitor first arrives.

During the summer, the park offers visitors an extensive program of Living History activities. A number of interpreters in period dress depict military and civilian characters from the fort's 1870s period. This well-run Living History program gives a unique measure of life to the fort, and is extremely popular with visitors.

Frequently in spring and summer, the park conducts special programs in addition to regularly listed interpretive programs. The most notable of these are the Moonlight Tours, given once in May and again in August, and the annual Fourth of July Celebration. These programs are especially popular with area residents.

In late spring and early fall, special tours are offered for area school groups. Schools are mailed information on the programs, reservations are made, and previsit materials are sent. This is a popular program and, due to staffing considerations, tours cannot be given to all making requests.



1990 Monthly Visitation



Annual Visitation

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS

Nonhistoric Roads, Trails

Route No. 1: Entrance road - 0.4 mile; 21 foot surface; 5 feet wide turf shoulders; asphalt.

Route No. 2: Service road - parking lot to proposed development area 1.3 miles; asphalt tack coat and chips.

Route No. 3: Fire lane - parking lot to maintenance 0.3 mile; chip.

Route No. 4: Visitor trail and fire lane parking lot/store to parking lot/barracks 0.5 mile chip.

In addition to the above roads, the fort has approximately 5 miles of primitive roads that are used only for security and maintenance purposes.

There is a ½-mile long gravel trail around the parade ground that provides visitor access to many of the historic structures. A concrete sidewalk, 6' x 650' leads from the parking lot to the Commissary Storehouse visitor center and headquarters.

The paved parking lot has 4 reserved and signed handicap spaces, and space for 102 cars and 6 extra-length vehicles. It serves the historic area and the adjacent picnic ground, and serves staff parking as well.

Bridges

1420-001S - Laramie River service road (on National Park Service Land) 100 feet long; 25 feet wide; concrete material; 1969 construction.

1420-003P - Laramie River Bridge on county road; 195 feet long; 32 feet 8 inches wide; concrete material; 1976 construction.

Deer Creek Box Culvert 20 feet wide x 8 feet high - reinforced concrete.

Nonhistoric Buildings and Facilities

Building	Size	Material
Storage - oil and paint	10 x 30	Stone
Garage - tack room	30 x 80	Wood
Pump house	16 x 20	Cinder block
Shop	24 x 30	Metal

Warehouse	20 x 24	Metal
Vault toilet	4 x 6	Wood
Vault toilet	4 x 6	Wood
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Horse barn	14 x 14	Wood
Security building	6 x 8	Wood
Powder magazine	4 x 4	Cinder block
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass

Picnic Area

1 acre; 22 tables; 1 water hydrant; parking for 102 cars.

Fences

2-strand barbed wire - .5 mile

3-strand barbed wire - 2 miles

4-strand barbed wire - 5 miles

Signs

Entrance - 2 main; 1 back road

National Park Service emblem - 2

Regulation - 45

Information - 15

Protection - 145

Interpretive - 23 metal-photo waysides

1 diorama

3 fiberglass waysides

1 wooden sign

3 metal plaques

Utility Systems

Water system - 60-foot well, 750-gallon tank for domestic use with:

- 704 linear feet of 2" winterized PVC waterline;
- 1,138 linear feet of 2" seasonal PVC waterline;
- 2 control valve boxes at line junctions;
- 1 curb stop and valve box on Barracks waterline;
- 2 curb stops and valve box on Commissary waterline;
- 400 linear feet of 2" drain line;
- 1 pump house backflow preventer;
- 1 peripheral turbine pump. 2" winterized PVC waterline; 1,138 linear fee

Water system - 60-foot well, 1,000 gallons per minute for fire and irrigation with: 1,900 feet of 6-inch cast-iron pipe (new system), 4,000 feet of cast-iron pipe (old system), and 8 fire hydrants.

Sewer system - 2,000-gallon septic tank; 700-foot sewer lines: 10,000-gallon septic tank; 2,000-foot sewer line.

Solid waste system - compactor; 10 barrels, 55-gallon size; 5 cans, 30-gallon size; 20 kegs, 5-gallon size.

Radio system - 26 park radios; 26 chargers; 3 tri-county radios; 1 TIS transmitter.

Irrigation system - well, hydrant, and 960-foot sprinkler pipe; flood - GID canal; flood - Old Fort ditch system.

Historic Structures

1420-002T - Fort Laramie Army Bridge: 1,432.5 feet long; 12 feet wide; timber and iron; 1875 construction.

Flagpole - replica pole made of native wood; 60 feet tall.

The following is the fort's List of Classified Structures (LCS), with LCS numbers:

- 001 - Old Bedlam
- 002 - Sutler's Store
- 003 - Historic Privy
- 004 - Officer's Quarters F
- 005 - Cavalry Barracks
- 006 - Officer's Quarters E
- 007 - Officer's Quarters A
- 008 - Old Guardhouse
- 009 - Commissary Storehouse
- 010 - Old 1876 Bakery

- 011 - Officer's Quarters Ruin
- 012 - Chicken House
- 013 - Hospital
- 014 - Magazine
- 015 - New Guardhouse
- 016 - Iron Bridge
- 017 - Administration Building
- 018 - Officer's Quarters D
- 019 - Officer's Quarters C
- 020 - Officer's Quarters B
- 021 - Married Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters
- 022 - Powerhouse/Sawmill
- 023 - New Bakery
- 024 - Three Company Barracks
- 025 - Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks
- 026 - General Sink
- 027 - 1850 Guardhouse
- 028 - Sutler's Residence
- 029 - Married Enlisted Men's Quarters
- 030 - 1858 Officer's Quarters
- 031 - Birdbath
- 032 - Icehouse
- 033 - Outbuilding
- 034 - Outbuilding
- 035 - Footbridge
- 036 - Chicken Shed
- 037 - Earthworks Trench

Major Equipment

1959 1½-ton Ford flat bed with Pacific Marine 40-gallon-per-minute (gpm) slip-on unit, with 450-gallon water capacity.

1984 484 International tractor, 42 horsepower, 4 cylinder diesel with power take-off.

1986 Ford Chassis, F800, 760-gpm, 500-gallon tank, Waterous pump, 4 x 4.

STATUS OF PLANNING

Name of Plan/Study	Preparer	Date Approved	Adequacy	Repository
Master Plan	DSC	8/30/66	In Progress	DSC
Development Concept Plan	RMRO	3/82	In Progress	RMRO
Resource Management Plan	FOLA	9/84	Update in Progress	FOLA
Interpretive Prospectus	RMRO	1986	Update in Progress	RMRO
Land Protection Plan	FOLA	2/1/85	Adequate and Up-to-date	FOLA
Scope of Collections	FOLA	1991	Current	FOLA
Stmnt for Interpretation	FOLA	1986	Current/ Revisd 1991	FOLA
Dam Safety Plan	FOLA	1988	Adequate	FOLA
Safety/ Emergency Plans	FOLA	1988	Adequate	FOLA
Range Land Study	U of Northern Colorado	1986	Adequate	FOLA
Fort Laramie Vertebrates	U of Colorado	1987	Adequate	FOLA
Fire Management Plan	FOLA	1991	Current	FOLA
Collection Management Plan	RMRO	In Progress	In Progress	FOLA

Plans and studies that have recently been identified as needed are as follows:

- Comprehensive archeological study of fort area.
- Completion of necessary furnishing plans for the few remaining historic buildings to be furnished.

- Historical/archeological research to locate site of Fort William.
- Specific history study--research Fort Laramie's Homestead Era--1890-1928.
- Specific history study--research Quartermaster operations at Fort Laramie 1849-1890.
- Specific history study--research the effect on native wildlife of immigration/settlement of Fort Laramie region.
- Specific history study--research Medical Department operations at Fort Laramie 1849-1890.
- Historic grounds study.
- Complete a Museum Exhibits Plan.
- Update Park Administrative History.

EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING

All lands within the boundary of Fort Laramie National Historic Site are classified Historic Zone, with three basic subzones: (1) Development subzone, 100 acres; (2) Natural Environment subzone, 40 acres; and (3) Special Use subzone, 63 acres. The percentage of parkland involved in each subzone is: 12 percent in the Development subzone, 3 percent in the Natural Environment subzone, and 7.6 percent in the Special Use subzone.

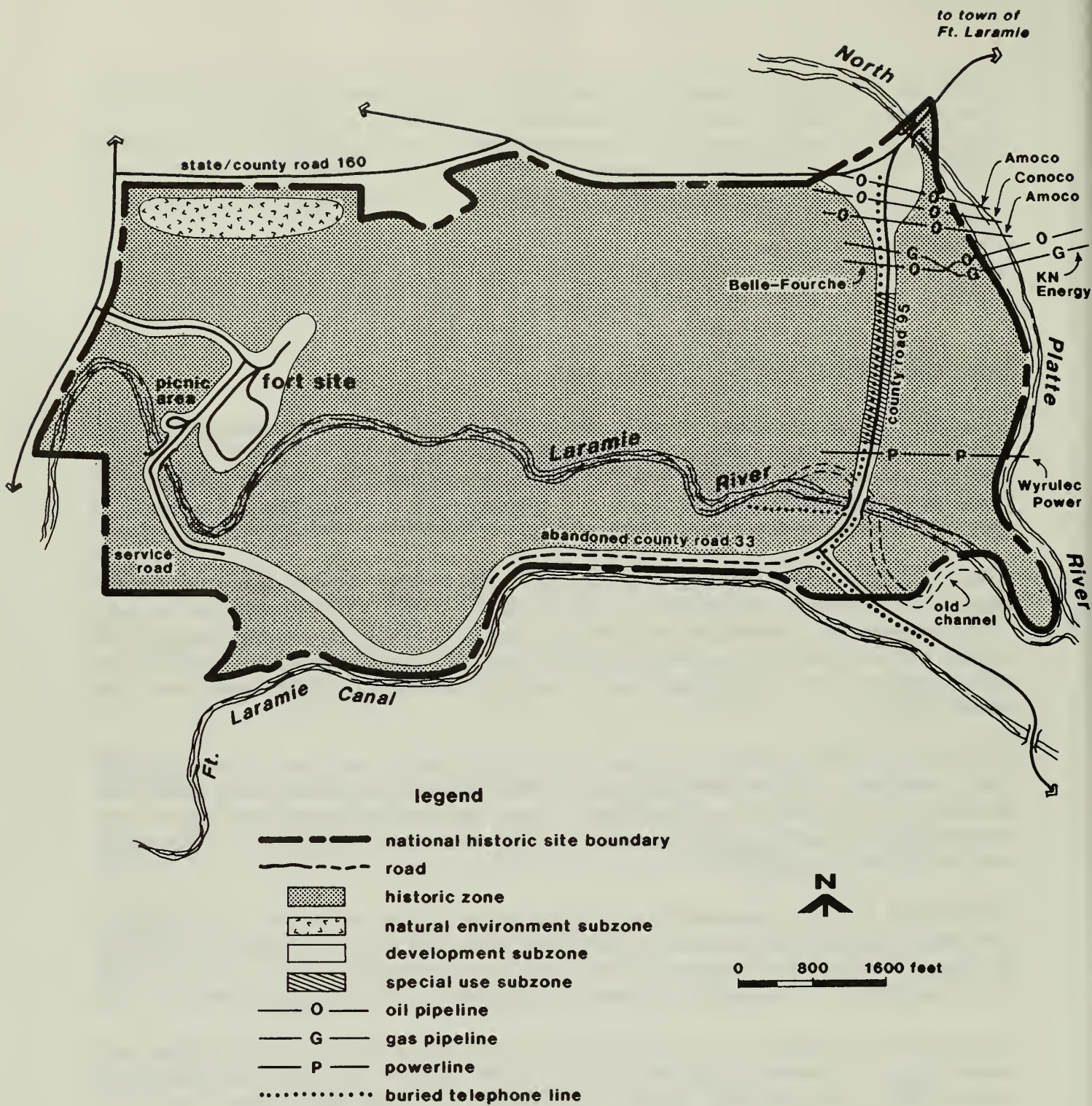
In the existing Development subzone are the entrance road, parking area, picnic area, maintenance facilities, administrative headquarters, County Road 95, and the museum. These facilities and the management practices associated with them are intrusions on the historic scene. The visitor experience and the adaptive use of the historic Commissary building as a museum and headquarters are not consistent with preservation of the building itself.

Some developmental activities took place on the south side of the Laramie River in the late 1960s and early 1970s, in anticipation of major administrative, maintenance, and visitor services developments to be sited there. These development plans have since been abandoned, or at least suspended pending review and revision of the park's master plan and development concept plan.

The Natural Environment subzone contains approximately 40 acres. It is claimed (unverified) that these 40 acres have never been tilled. It has not been mowed or grazed for at least 40 years. Management practice on this land is to leave it as it is. The integrity of the vegetation in this parcel is a focus for interpretation of the historic resource.

The remaining land within the park boundary consists of former agricultural property and natural areas. Basically, all of this land is in the process of being returned to the historic/natural scene of vast prairie grassland with the Platte and Laramie rivers as a contrast with green wooded riverbanks.

In general, vegetation along the river and in the nonhistoric areas of the park will not be subjected to manipulation or control, except that noxious and/or exotic species may be controlled or eradicated to voluntarily comply with state and local agricultural control measures, and to stop their spread beyond the boundaries to adjacent private agricultural lands.



Existing Management Zoning Fort Laramie National Historic Site

U.S. Dept. of the Interior - National Park Service

In pasture and farmlands around the historic area, where appropriate for interpretive and historic scene purposes, traditional and historic native species may be encouraged via seeding and control measures to reclaim the area.

Trees around the parade ground will be maintained, and replaced as necessary due to natural death or loss. Vegetation around the historic structures and ruins will be controlled and removed to protect the historic scene and the structures/ruins. Trees in the vicinity of the Commissary Storehouse and the Cavalry Barracks will be allowed to remain for their natural lives. Hazardous limbs and snags will be removed for the safety of persons and structures. In general, no new or replacement plantings in this area will occur, except as part of a comprehensive development concept plan.

MAJOR ISSUES

Major issues, not necessarily in priority order, for consideration at Fort Laramie National Historic Site include the following:

Issue 1: One **historic building** remains to be **restored** and refurnished, the Commissary Storehouse. However, this cannot take place until the administrative and visitor center functions currently housed in that structure are relocated to new or alternate facilities. In conjunction with this issue is the need to site and/or locate new or remodeled, modern, efficient spaces to carry out these essential overhead functions.

Issue 2: Decisions and determinations to be made by the revised GMP/DCP/IP currently in progress, need to be prioritized, funded, and executed. The park needs a **major overhaul of its administrative, maintenance, and visitor services spaces**. Alternatives identified by the above revised plans should be quickly addressed.

Issue 3: Ongoing revision of the Collection Management Plan has identified a need for **fire detection and suppression systems** in restored and refurnished historic structures. A plan for same needs to be prepared, and funding to implement such a plan secured as soon as possible.

Issue 4: The **museum collections** at Fort Laramie NHS are extensive (over 40,000 objects, worth in excess of \$5 million) and in need of additional staff care and maintenance.

Issue 5: The **last inholding within the park** should be acquired to ensure preservation of the historic scene. This issue is covered in detail in the land protection plan.

Issue 6: Existing **rights-of-way and mineral rights** should be monitored to avoid future problems.

Issue 7: Uses of **land adjacent to the park** should be monitored in order to recognize

potential future problems.

Issue 8: Surface and subsurface **water rights** need to be investigated to preclude future legal problems.

Issue 9: Over the last 2 years, **high water released from the Gray Rocks Dam** has caused resource deterioration. Protective measures have been taken and monitoring will be continued.

Issue 10: There is a need within the park to have **base line research** done on the archeological and natural resources of the area, including the condition of subsurface resources.

Issue 11: A major archeology project to **locate and confirm the site of Fort William** needs to be mounted, as well as other projects to confirm previous estimated locations of other significant historic structures (e.g., **Fort John**).

Issue 12: **Cyclic maintenance and cultural cyclic maintenance** work in the park is extensively backlogged. Staffing and funding to address this condition is essential if the fort is to ever catch up with the work to be done.

Issue 13: Fort Laramie was the crossroads of the west, with every major trail and route on the northern plains passing by or through the site. **Development of the interpretive themes** of the fur trade, American Indian cultures, westward migration, and the settling of the west needs to be undertaken to present a more complete picture to the visitor of Fort Laramie's place in history.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND SUPPORT

Provide direction, supervision, and support for the various divisions and functions of the park. Build employee morale and support for the park, the region, and the National Park Service in their missions, functions, and objectives. Increase local and statewide support for the park and the NPS by continuing to nurture and build good working relationships with sister and collegial organizations and entities. Ensure the protection preservation, and interpretation of the resources that comprise Fort Laramie NHS.

INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

Provide the highest quality and quantity of professional interpretive services possible, addressing the various themes the park represents. A variety of interpretive techniques will be used to achieve the best mix and balance of methodologies for the site and the

visitor. The interpretive program will represent to the visitor Fort Laramie's role in the history of the west, including the area's Native cultures, the fur trade, the Indian Wars, westward migration, Manifest Destiny, and the closing of the frontier.

Develop and present special activities and events that will increase and broaden the visitor's understanding of Fort Laramie's role in the history of the west, and of the lives of the people who made that history.

Cooperate with sister and collegial agencies and organizations that support and foster the educational and preservation objectives of the park.

Provide and promote outreach and on-site programs with schools, organizations, and entities in the surrounding region and states to further the park's educational and preservation objectives.

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Reestablish and promote native plants and animals that contribute to and create the park's historic scene to the greatest degree possible.

Assist and work with local officials and private landowners, neighbors and others, in promoting and preserving the historic scene and historical appearance of the surrounding landscapes.

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Reestablish and protect to the fullest extent possible, the integrity of the historic scene of the park.

Protect and preserve the historic integrity of the buildings, ruins, structures, and collections of the area, assuring their availability, and assuring their survival, for the benefit of the public in perpetuity.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 2292—July 16, 1938—53 Stat. 2461]

WHEREAS The Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming has donated to the United States in trust certain lands with the structures thereon comprising the abandoned Fort Laramie, for the purpose of improving, preserving, and conducting such lands and structures as a public historical site; and

WHEREAS the lands and structures are of great historic interest and constitute a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands and structures as a national monument, to be known as the Fort Laramie National Monument:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2 of the act of June 8, 1906, ch. 3060, 34 Stat. 225 (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 431), do proclaim that the following-described lands in Wyoming are hereby reserved and set apart as the Fort Laramie National Monument:

Commencing at the corner common to Sections 20, 21, 28 and 29 in Township 26 North, Range 64 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming, thence due West 1320 feet, the point of beginning; thence due North 1320 feet to a point; thence due east 1725 feet to a point; thence due South parallel to section lines between Sections 20 and 21 and Sections 29 and 28, 3960 feet to a point; thence due West 3045 feet to a point; thence due North 1320 feet to a point; thence due East 355 feet to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of the county road; thence North 26 degrees 39 minutes east 685.4 feet to a point on the said easterly right-of-way line of the county road; thence North 28 degrees 55' East 808.1 feet to a point on the said easterly right-of-way line and on the section line common to Sections 20 and 29; thence due east 266.9 feet along said section line between sections 20 and 29 to the point of beginning excepting, however, the land occupied by the county road which traverses the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of said Section 29, containing in all 214.41 acres, more or less.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument, and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management, and control of this monument as provided in the act of Congress entitled "An act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916, 39 Stat. 535 (U. S. C., title 16, secs. 1 and 2), and acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 16th day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-third.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

By the President:
CORDELL HULL,
Secretary of State.

Revision of boundaries; monument redesignated as "Fort Laramie National Historic Site"-----Act of April 29, 1960 347

An Act To revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyoming, and for other purposes, approved April 29, 1960 (74 Stat. 83)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve the sites of historic buildings and roads associated with Fort Laramie, the boundaries of the Fort Laramie National Monument are hereby revised to include the following area:

Fort Laramie
National Monu-
ment, Wyo.

Beginning at the intersection of the section line common to sections 28 and 29, township 26 north, range 64 west, sixth principal meridian, with the northerly right-of-way line of the Fort Laramie Canal;

Thence southwesterly along said right-of-way line to the intersection of said line with the center of Deer Creek;

Thence northerly along the center of Deer Creek to the intersection of said center with the north line of the southeast quarter, section 29;

Thence westerly along said line to a point 1,100 feet east of the southwest corner of the northeast quarter, section 29;

Thence due north, 1,320 feet to the point of intersection with the north line of the southwest quarter northeast quarter, section 29;

Thence westerly along said north line to a point at the intersection of said line with the easterly right-of-way line of the county road;

Thence northerly and easterly along said right-of-way line to a point 955 feet east of the section line common to sections 20 and 21;

Thence due south to the point of intersection with the section line common to sections 21 and 28;

Thence easterly along said section line to a point 2,090 feet east of the section corner common to sections 20, 21, 28, and 29;

Thence due south to the point of intersection with the northerly bank of Laramie River;

Thence easterly along said northerly bank to a point 150 feet west of the westerly right-of-way line of the county road, in section 27;

Thence northerly on a line paralleling at 150 feet said right-of-way line of county road to a point 660 feet north of section line common to sections 22 and 27;

Thence northwesterly in a straight line to a point on the southerly right-of-way line of the State highway relocation a distance of 150 feet east of the section line common to sections 21 and 22;

Thence northeasterly along said right-of-way line to the point of intersection with the lot line common to lots 1 and 2, section 22;

Thence southerly along said lot line to a point at the intersection of said line as projected with the westerly or right bank of the North Platte River;

Thence southerly along said bank to its confluence with the northerly or left bank of the Laramie River in section 27;

Thence westerly along said bank of the Laramie River to the westernmost intersection of said bank with the north line of the south half of section 27;

Thence westerly along said line and the north line of the south half of section 28 to the point of intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of the Fort Laramie Canal;

Thence westerly along said right-of-way line to the point of beginning.

SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to procure, in such manner and subject to such terms and conditions as he may deem to be in the public interest, lands and interests in lands within the revised boundary described in section 1 hereof. To avoid the undesirable severance of parcels in private ownership which extend beyond the aforesaid revised boundaries, the Secretary may, in his discretion, and with the consent of the owners, acquire lands or interests in lands that are in such ownership but which lie outside the revised boundary. Property so acquired outside such revised boundary and federally owned lands excluded from the monument pursuant to section 1 hereof may be exchanged by the Secretary of the Interior for any land of approximately equal value within the monument boundaries.

SEC. 3. The Fort Laramie National Monument is hereby redesignated as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site and any remaining balance of funds appropriated for the monument shall be available for the purposes of the national historic site.

SEC. 4. The administration, protection, and development of the Fort Laramie National Historic Site shall be exercised by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service and for other purposes", as amended. (See 16 U.S.C. § 461 note [Supp. II].)

Procurement
of lands.

Redesignation.

16 U.S.C. 1,
3-4, 22, 44.

14. Fort Laramie

An Act to authorize additional appropriations for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands within the Sawtooth National Recreation Area in Idaho. (92 Stat. 3467) (P.L. 95-625)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

TITLE III—FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

* * * * *

SEC. 308. (a) The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyoming, and for other purposes", approved April 29, 1960 (74 Stat. 83), is amended to read as follows: "That in order to preserve the sites of historic buildings and roads associated with Fort Laramie, the boundaries of the Fort Laramie National Historic Site shall hereafter comprise the area generally depicted on the map entitled 'Boundary Map, Fort Laramie National Historic Site', numbered 375-90,001, and dated September 1977. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior".

(b) The first sentence of section 2 of such Act is amended by inserting between the words "boundary" and "described" the phrase "as depicted on the map".

* * * * *

Approved November 10, 1978.

